

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEKAS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1515

DEFERRALS OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report eight new deferrals of budgetary resources, totaling \$4.8 billion.

These deferrals affect programs of the Department of State, the Social Security Administration, and International Security Assistance.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 3, 1998.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD V. DELLUMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed feelings that I address the House today and preside over this special order. On the one hand, we honor a truly outstanding American and Member of this body. On the other hand, he will be leaving as a Member of the United States House of Representatives on February 6. It is with that as a prelude that I precede my remarks.

I might also say, Mr. Speaker, that we had intended to take this special order up at 5 o'clock this evening, and there are those who are still traveling back to Washington from their districts that I know would wish to be a

part of this. Hopefully they will submit their statements for the RECORD at a later time.

Mr. Speaker, in the early and middle years of the 1800s, there was a giant of an orator who spoke in this body and also spoke in the other body, the United States Senate. His name, of course, was Daniel Webster. I doubt if anyone has been measured to his status or his level until my friend RON DELLUMS, who is one of the finest orators of our day, and, I think, of any day and time in this body, came along.

A few years ago, after a very interesting debate, a young page approached me outside the chamber and remarked that Congressman DELLUMS was undoubtedly the finest speaker in the House of Representatives, to which I agreed with the young gentleman's observations.

As our colleague and good friend RON DELLUMS prepares to close this chapter of his life, 27 years as a Member of Congress, I would like to say a few words about the man and about the legacy.

He is one of those rarities, a native who was born in Oakland, California. He served in the Marine Corps, used the GI Bill to go to college, and worked as a psychiatric social worker, a skill he put to good use here years later in this Congress.

How would I describe him? First, he is a friend. He is a teacher, he is a role model. He is also a man of passion, of eloquence, and of intelligence, as anyone who has observed him in countless House debates knows so very well.

He has a liberal badge that he wears with honor, and has been a leading figure in that part of the Democratic Party for over a generation. He demonstrated his courage on several occasions, of his convictions, and he used his position and status as a Member of Congress to draw public attention to an issue he considered important.

I believe it was Speaker NEWT GINGRICH who once described RON DELLUMS as the "Conscience of Congress."

RON DELLUMS's accomplishments in the Committee on National Security, formerly known as the House Armed Services Committee, and here in Congress are numerous. He was the first African-American to serve on the House Armed Services Committee in 1973. He was the first to serve as a subcommittee chairman, which was Military Construction, from 1983 to 1989. He was the first to serve as the Chairman of the full committee, from 1993 to 1995.

He has been a longtime opponent of large defense expenditures. At the same time he has always supported, always supported, those measures designed to improve the welfare of the men and women who served our Nation in uniform, as well as their families.

He worked closely with the former Secretary of Defense, Bill Perry, to promote procurement and reform legislation, which passed, Mr. Speaker, with bipartisan support in 1994.

Maybe his most significant accomplishment in Congress occurred with

the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, which prohibited new investment in South Africa. It capped a 15-year effort on his part and passed with overwhelming support as a result of his persistence. Less than 10 years later, in 1994, he traveled to South Africa and witnessed the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa.

RON DELLUMS can take justifiable credit for having been a leader on that issue in Congress and having contributed to the remarkable and positive outcome in South Africa.

But as part of his legacy here in Congress and on the committee on which I serve, RON DELLUMS conducted himself in exemplary fashion, with fairness, I will repeat, with fairness; with integrity, I will repeat, with integrity; and, of course, with the highest of dignity.

As both Chairman and ranking member of the committee, he was committed to the democratic process. Yes, he had strong views about many issues the committee dealt with, arms control, defense spending, individual weapons systems, and many, many more, but he was scrupulously fair, to ensure that all points of view were heard and were considered, so that no one, no Member was shut out of the democratic process, whether it be in committee or here on the floor of the House.

While Congressman DELLUMS took his responsibilities seriously as a Member of this body, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and as ranking member of the House Committee on National Security, he maintained a down-to-earth attitude about himself. He remained a friend; approachable and bright. When asked for advice, he gave it; when asked for friendship, he gave it.

Congressman DELLUMS can take great satisfaction that he leaves this body, this Congress of the United States, having made a difference, a major difference.

□ 1530

We can also have the knowledge that he leaves many friends here. We hope he will maintain contact with each of us. We wish him and his family health. We wish them happiness and success. We wish them the very, very best in the days and years ahead. I am proud to call him my friend, I am proud to call him my colleague. We will miss him.

I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SISISKY).

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to say everything in my heart about RON DELLUMS. However, I must follow up on my colleague from Missouri concerning a speech that Mr. DELLUMS gave concerning apartheid in South Africa. It has been my custom when I do not know how I am going to vote on a subject, I come to the floor, not in front of the television set, but come to the floor to see how Members really conduct themselves. I am one of the oldest Members in the House of Representatives, I believe, so I can say